

# 2004 Report of Accomplishments

## Okanogan Conservation District

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### Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- Installed a watering trough and 1,400' of pipeline which created a half acre of wetland.
- 1,300 newsletters were distributed.
- Took and recorded 212 water flow measurements at 20 different sites and monitored continuous flow measurement recording devices 105 times at 7 different sites.
- 1,835 trees and shrubs were planted on 9.9 acres.
- Two irrigation diversions are upgraded and now will allow fish passage to an additional 6.5 miles of habitat on Beaver Creek when completed in fall 2004.
- 48 cooperators/3,285.6 acres received irrigation water management technical asst. and plans.
- 48,513 trees and shrubs were sold.
- 369 students and 202 adults received natural resource education.
- 6 cooperators with a total of 36 acres of downed orchard had their trees chipped.
- 5 watersheds in WRIA 48 inventoried & mapped for forest density/fire fuels assessment.



### Mission of the Okanogan Conservation District

- To foster and support the conservation of renewable resources in Okanogan County...enhancing both their productivity and sustainability through the application of technically feasible, and economically viable Best Management Practices (BMPs).

### Water Quality Implementation

- A spring was previously redirected out of a livestock yard. Additionally, a watering trough and 1,400' of pipeline was installed which created a half acre of wetland.
- 18 livestock and water quality project applications were ranked for cost-share assistance. The work on these projects is to begin in fall 2004 after completion of the landowners' field season.

### Basic Funding

- The district uses basic funding to partially fund the creation and distribution of our quarterly newsletter (1,300 distributed), training, building rent and day to day overhead expenses.

### Local Funding

- No local funding this year. However, we are seeking a county assessment and have been working with the County Commissioners and County staff towards this end.

### Stream Gauging

- District staff performed Okanogan County Stream Gauging where they took and recorded 72 water flow measurements at six different sites. They also monitored continuous flow measurement recording devices 105 times at seven different sites.
- District staff performed Bureau of Reclamation Gauging where they took and recorded 140 water flow measurements at 14 different sites.

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- There were 1,835 trees and shrubs planted on 9.9 acres in order to compensate for loss on these four projects' original plantings.

### Irrigation Efficiencies

- One project is being developed which will improve the irrigation system on 40 acres and potentially restore 3.78 cfs to the Spring Branch Creek which is a tributary to the Methow River.

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### **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- Finished work on the third and fourth of five total irrigation diversions that will allow fish passage to an additional 6.5 miles of habitat on Beaver Creek when completed in the fall of 2004.

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### **Irrigation Water Management**

- The Okanogan Watershed had 18 cooperators with a total of 1,403.6 acres that received technical assistance and plans from the Okanogan Irrigation Water Management program. The Methow Watershed had 26 cooperators with a total of 482 acres that received technical assistance and plans from the Methow Irrigation Water Management program. In addition, technical assistance and irrigation water management plans were made for the NRCS for 4 cooperators with a total of 1,400 acres.

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### **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- Awarded \$50,000 from the Department of Ecology to establish the needed structure, processes and detailed scope of work to ensure that the watershed planning effort undertaken pursuant to RCW 90.82 results in all parties acting in unison to manage the water and fishery resource of WRIA 49.
- Coordinated quarterly discussions of water quality concerns in the Okanogan River Watershed (WRIA 49) between approximately 25 stakeholder groups and public agencies.
- Participated in the Local Work Group process which resulted in \$1.3 million funding coming to north central Washington.

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### **Information & Education**

- Assisted with the Regional Envirothon – 75 students.
- Hosted the Washington State Envirothon – 91 students.
- Demonstrated “What is a Watershed” to Sixth Grade Camps – 182 students.
- Demonstrated water flow measuring to Seventh Graders – 21 students.
- Conducted the Annual Spring Plant Sale – 66 customers and 48,513 trees and shrubs sold.
- Conducted the Spring Conservation Tour which highlighted several projects and potential projects as well as discussing the need for forest thinning to better manage the land and to reduce the risk of wild fire – 25 attendees.
- Hosted the WA State Conservation Commission Tour – 30 attendees.
- Hosted the Coordinated Resource Management Tour – 81 attendees.
- Assisted with the 32 Coordinated Resource Management group meetings.
- Conducted 12 District Board of Supervisor meetings.
- Coordinated the WA Association of Conservation Districts Strategic Planning Session and quarterly meeting – 45 attendees.

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### **Orchard Chipping**

- Six cooperators with a total of 36 acres of downed orchard had their trees chipped and used in various ways as an alternative to burning them.

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### **Title II**

- Five watersheds in the Methow Valley (WRIA 48) were inventoried and GIS mapped to identify high density forest growth, as part of an ongoing fire fuels assessment.

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### **WACD Livestock Committee**

- Worked with conservation district supervisors, staff, industry groups and HB 5889 Livestock Development Oversight Committee to develop early implementation program for livestock big issues.
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